

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1 through 20 remain in the application.

Claims 1 through 20 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,667,261 to Weinerman. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

U.S. Patent No. 5,667,261 to Weinerman, et al discloses a handle operated heavy duty draw latch with safety catch.

In contradistinction, claim 1, as amended, claims a clamp including a base and a handle connected to the base. The clamp also includes a pin rotatably supported within the handle and a bracket pivotally arranged with respect to the handle. The clamp also has a lever arranged around the bracket and a spring arranged between the handle and the pin.

Weinerman, et al '261 does not disclose, teach or anticipate the present invention of claim 1, as amended. Specifically, Weinerman, et al does not disclose a clamp having a lever arranged around a bracket. Nowhere does Weinerman, et al disclose, teach or even suggest the use of a clamp having a lever arranged around a bracket wherein that bracket is pivotally arranged with respect to a handle. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Weinerman, et al fails to disclose all of the limitations claimed by Applicant in claim 1, as amended. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, and the claims dependent therefrom, overcome the rejection under 35 USC §102(b) and are allowable over this rejection.

Independent claim 11, as amended, claims a manual pull action clamp. The clamp includes a base, and a handle including a first and second portion with a handle pivotally connected to the base. The clamp has a pin arranged between the first and second portions of the handle and a bracket secured to the pin. A lever has a generally L-shape and an orifice in a

surface thereof is also included in the clamp. The clamp has a spring arranged between the handle and the pin.

Weinerman, et al '261 does not disclose, teach or anticipate the present invention of claim 11, as amended. Specifically, Weinerman, et al does not disclose a manual pull action clamp having a lever with a generally L-shape. Furthermore, the Weinerman, et al reference does not disclose a manual pull action clamp having a lever with an orifice through a surface thereof. Nowhere does Weinerman, et al disclose, teach or even suggest a lever having a generally L-shape wherein that lever has an orifice through a surface thereof. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Weinerman, et al '261 fails to disclose all of the limitations claimed by the Applicant in claim 11, as amended. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11, as amended, and the claims dependent, overcome the rejection under 35 USC §102(b) and are allowable over this rejection.

Independent claim 20, as amended, claims a manual toggle locking pull action clamp including a tab lever arranged around at least one end of a latch member.


Weinerman, et al '261 does not disclose, teach or anticipate the present invention of claim 20, as amended. Specifically, Weinerman, et al does not disclose a manual toggle locking pull action clamp that includes a tab lever arranged over at least one end of a latch member. Furthermore, Weinerman, et al does not disclose a spring secured to a pin on one end and to a fastener on an opposite end. Nowhere does Weinerman, et al disclose, teach or even suggest a manual toggle locking pull action clamp having a tab lever arranged over at least one end of a latch member. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Weinerman, et al '261 fails to disclose all of the limitations claimed by Applicant in claim 20, as amended. Hence, it is respectfully

submitted that claim 20, as amended, overcomes the rejection under 35 USC §102(b) and is allowable over this rejection.

If Applicant can be of any further assistance or provide any other information in the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (248) 364-2100.

Respectfully submitted,

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